

april | may 2014

sonningcommon

magazine



Springtime
HAS SPRUNG!

Please send your articles direct by email: editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org

CARPET FITTER

Fitted Carpets & Vinyl Specialist
Underlays & Fixings Supplied
Re-Adaptions & Restretches
Measuring, Estimating & Planning
Carpets Vinyl Amtico Kamdean
25 YEARS EXPERIENCE

MICHAEL HODGSON

TEL: 0118 901 1777 / MOB: 07841 586003

Caversham Aerial Services

TV Aerials Supplied and Fitted.
Poor Reception? Old aerials?
Can't get the new digital channels?

Give us a call - We can help!

Phone 0118 9673596

www.caversham-aerials.co.uk

Freeview

Freeview HD

FOR BEAUTIFUL GARDENS

Choose from our wide range of quality garden services: design and construction, plants and maintenance. We tailor-make our service for you. For a free, no-obligation visit and written estimate from RHS qualified staff, call **01844 279430** or email info@brannfordsgardens.co.uk
Full details at www.brannfordsgardens.co.uk



Outstanding Natural Beauty

Waxing, electrolysis, eyelash tinting,
eyebrow shaping, make-up,
Jessica manicures & pedicures,
Aromatherapy facials.

Tel: 0118 9723157

Janet Copp I.H.B.C

9 Sedgfield Close, Sonning Common

www.chilternbeauty.co.uk

Property Consultants

Shops, Offices, Industrial, Investments
Valuations, Rent Reviews, Lease Renewals

**Highmoor
Cross**

George Chilvers and Nigel Price FRICS

0118 947 4600

www.highmoorcross.co.uk

SONNING COMMON PRE-SCHOOL

GROVE ROAD
SONNING COMMON
0118 972 4760

We are a happy friendly pre-school welcoming children from 2 years 6 months, to come and learn through play. We have a purpose built building & extensive play garden.

Morning sessions are 9.00am - 12.00pm
Afternoon sessions are 12.00pm - 3.00pm



elements;
KITCHENS • INTERIORS

Visit our stunning showroom:
8b Portman Road, Reading RG30 1EA
Tel 0118 959 9919
www.elementskitchens.co.uk

Adam's Pest Control

Professional Pest Control in Sonning Common
Rats, mice, rabbits, squirrels, moles, insects, foxes.
Available 7 days a week.
BPCA Qualified and Fully Insured

Call 0118 9723709 or 0784 9342690
www.adamspestcontrol.co.uk

april | may 2014

sonningcommon
magazine



From the editorial group

As I write the editorial for this issue of the magazine, the sun is shining and (dare I say it), spring is in the air.

For the first time, we have been able to put together a 36 page edition of the Sonning Common magazine. This is partly due to more advertisers taking space so we are able to afford to have it designed and printed. We are also grateful for the additional number of articles emailed in by you, the readers.

The main feature focusses on the charity work of the pupils of Chiltern Edge school and their sadness at the loss of a much loved member of staff; the good work and contribution of their Community Governors and the meetings that have been held, concerning the potential sale of school land. The primary school has enjoyed a project on Africa, producing some lovely art work and raising money for a school in Tanzania.

The Parish page has one theme for this edition, which is the boundary review explaining what has happened so far. Important public information has been provided by the Police and the interview is with Gwyn Arch. South Chiltern Choral Society is losing its much loved musical director after 48 years! The rest of the pages are full of what is going on in our busy community.

We hope you enjoy reading our extended edition?

Diana

DIANA PEARMAN Editor

Email: editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org

PS...

Sonning Common Magazine is on sale at the village library in Grove Road for **£1.50 a copy**. Annual subscriptions are available for **£15**. Contact Geoffrey Adams. Email: chairman@sonningcommonmagazine.org Phone: 0118 972 2134

Magazine contributions may be posted to:
1 Woodlands Road, Sonning Common RG4 9TD

WHILE EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO ENSURE THE ACCURACY OF INFORMATION PRINTED IN THIS MAGAZINE, THE EDITOR AND THE PUBLISHER CANNOT ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF ERRORS THAT OCCUR.

Contents

- 2 OYB/Skatepark
- 3 Club SC/PCSO and bike lights/Village Gardeners
- 4 SC Primary/CE school
- 5 Housing Development/LIONS/Local Buses
- 8 Noticeboard
- 11 Parish page
- 12 Police news
- 15 CE Community Governors
- 16 In Focus – charity work at CE
- 19 Just for kids
- 20 My latest project - Alan Goswell
- 21 Signs - Tom Fort
- 23 Gwyn Arch
- 24 Village travel/Rainbow Children's Centre/Health walks
- 27 Magazine news
- 29 Clubs to join?
- 30 Betty Brindley
- 31 Church News
- 32 Diary dates

CHAIRMAN – Geoffrey Adams

1 Woodlands Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9TD
email: chairman@sonningcommonmagazine.org
tel: 0118 972 2134

DIARY DATES – Helen Barker

1 Walnut Close, Sonning Common, RG4 9DG
email: helen.barker@tesco.net
tel: 0118 972 1241

ADVERTISING – John Pearman

50 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common RG4 9JT
email: advertising@sonningcommonmagazine.org
tel: 0118 972 2381 / 07794 291776

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER – Helen Gavin

25 Woodlands Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9TD
email: distribution@sonningcommonmagazine.org
tel: 0118 972 4680

CONSULTANT EDITOR – Ros Varnes

JUNIOR EDITOR – Zack Hawkes

email:
junior_editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org

COVER IMAGE

Springtime by Widmore Pond by John Pearman

Design by:

**ten
seven
nine.
brand
invigoration.**

tensevennine.com

COPY DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE 01 MAY 2014



On Your Bike launched by BBC Radio Berkshire's Ady Williams

As a professional footballer, Ady Williams was a firm favourite with the fans. Now he has another enthusiastic fan-base among listeners to BBC Radio Berkshire.

The former Reading Royals legend launched this year's village cycle ride in front of an audience of over 250 children at Sonning Common Primary School on Wednesday 5 March.

"I love cycling," said Ady. "I really got into it myself about 8 years ago, after watching every Tour de France avidly with my team mates.

I go to Spain now each year with a group of mates to cycle the hills high above Malaga. It's spectacular."

"It's a great sport for kids. It gets them fit, gets them outside and it's a fun thing to do with family & friends, as a bit of competition to spur you on. And if you do it properly, it's safe."

Ady answered lots of questions about his career. Arnar Davenport, 8, told him, as a Royals fan, he often listened to and liked Ady's commentary on BBC Radio Berkshire.

If you register for On Your Bike 2014 before 9pm on 1st April, your name will be entered into a **free draw to win a bike**, kindly donated by AW Cycles. At the launch James Thompson, from AW Cycles, told the children "I like cycling so much, I work with bikes every day. I'm a bit of a cycling nut."

The children were impressed by James' account of a high speed downhill mountain bike race he did once, in which he reached a top speed of 62 mph!

The head teacher at Sonning Common Primary School, Chris Hirst said "The event seems to grow every year. It's no longer just a school cycle ride. It's now a huge community phenomenon. It's great to see past pupils coming back to cycle with us. And lots of people who live in Sonning Common, but who don't have any connection to the school, have become keen On Your Bike regulars. The whole village can be proud of this event."

On Your Bike 2014 is on Sunday 27 April at 10.30am. Enter now online www.onyourbikesonningcommon.co.uk

100% of all entry fees and monies raised this year will be shared between Sonning Common Primary School, Sue Ryder and our local Air Ambulance. ■



ABOVE: Ady and James posed for a photograph with some of the pupils who've taken part in On Your Bike in previous years. Arnar is wearing one of Ady's Welsh caps, earned during one of his international appearances for Wales. Mary & Charlie are holding Ady's 1995 Wembley Royals play-off shirt.

Club SC continues to receive tremendous support from local people

Donations have been received this year from Rotherfield Peppard and Kidmore End Parish Council and Phyllis Court Club's Charity Action Group. Sonning Common Parish Council are our most generous benefactor, indeed, they are our mainstay.

We are delighted that Nottakwire and Goring Lions are community minded organisations and both donate towards our activities. The bare minimum we need to raise each year to keep open is £14,500. This is solely for basic running costs and does not include any equipment or trips.

If any reader has a craft or hobby they feel our young people may find interesting, and they would care to offer a demonstration, please contact me. My contact details are:

Carol Viney, Chairman, Club SC Management Committee c/o The Bay Trees, 25 Wood Lane, Sonning Common, RG4 9SJ carolyviney@aol.com ■



Village gardeners step up to the challenge but need your help!

By Joan Grummant

After winning 'Outstanding' in the 'It's your neighbourhood' category competition organised by the Thames and Chiltern branch of the Britain in Bloom we have decided, with some trepidation, to take the next step by entering the Britain in Bloom Competition which will be judged in July. We hope some better weather will inspire us all to get outside and enjoy some gardening but need some help from Sonning Common residents as well.

We have a very strong team of volunteers but still need more help. You could help in the following ways:

- Sweep and weed outside the front areas of your business or home
- Put out tubs or hanging baskets if at all possible
- Fund a wooden tub and plants for £40 that we can purchase and plant for you
- Help on the first Sunday or third Thursday of the month at 10 o'clock outside the Village Hall
- Please give us any unwanted old green recycling boxes and green troughs-we can collect!
- Plant out any 'sad' looking areas around houses with bright shrubs

We have included a photograph of the last point. Mrs Barbara Butler has planted some primula outside her bungalow in Wood Lane. Some of you may already have noticed the difference this has made and there are lots of similar spots around that could benefit from a bit of TLC. If you can help, contact: Chrissie on 972 1058 phillipstilbury@gmail.com



Safety is the priority

When patrolling the village, PCSO Colin Boyes identified that a large number of children were cycling along its roads without the benefit of any bicycle lights. The village's roads are dark at the very best of times and he was concerned that it was only a matter of time before one of these young cyclists might be injured or worse.

So he approached local businesses that generously provided prizes. These were combined to form a lovely hamper and raffled. This was drawn on 17 January. Rides on Air, light supplier to the Police Force also gave a heavily discounted rate to buy the lights, 27 sets in total.

Colin Boyes said "I believe that the above initiative demonstrates that the community of Sonning Common considers the safety of its young residents to be a priority and also conveys what can be achieved when a community unites for the benefit of a good cause. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following local businesses and organisations: Brambles, Co-Operative, One-Stop, BB Wines, Mapledurham Club, Abbey Crest Care Home, Sonning Common Parish Council, FISH Bus and Rides On Air (Wallingford)."

PCSO Boyes attended the Sonning Common Youth Club to present the children with the 27 lights and installed a couple of lights whilst there. ■



Boost for the skatepark

Plans to build an exciting new skatepark at Bishopswood are a large step closer with the announcement of a major grant towards the project.

The Sonning Common Skatepark working party has confirmed that it has been awarded a grant in excess of £60,000 towards the new skatepark and the enhancement of facilities at the Baskerville Road play area.

The group is also awaiting the outcome of an application to South Oxfordshire District Council for further funding while some community groups have also pledged money.

Carole Lewis, chairman of the working party, said: "This is great

news for the skatepark. While we are delighted with the progress made to date, we still need to raise more funds before we can begin building the skatepark. We hope that the village community will continue to support this exciting project for the benefit of our young people."

Sonning Common Skatepark is due to be built in the corner of the lower playing field at Bishopswood, near the public footpath between Woodlands Road and the sports ground.

The skatepark project is being driven by Sonning Common Parish Council. The working party will share current designs for the skatepark at On Your Bike at Sonning Common Primary School, Grove Road, on Sunday, 27 April. ■



Charity as part of the curriculum

By Christine Atkinson

At Sonning Common Primary school the children take part in national fundraising days like Sports Relief and Comic Relief, as well as collecting at harvest time and Christmas for local food collections. The PTA help run the annual On Your Bike event.

During March the school held a special week long focus on Africa. The children were entertained by a drumming group, had visitors who were originally from Africa and even had a special African themed school meal from Kites Kitchen. Each class produced their own African art.

Year 1 and 2 have been recycling as well as learning about Africa. The children made an elephant out of the top half of a milk carton which was painted grey. Sounds a bit mad, but it did work as you can see from the photos.

Miss Woodford, Year 3 teacher said "Year 3 had a fantastic Africa week. We got inspired by a book about a little boy saving elephants from being poached and designed our own persuasive posters".

Year 4 explored how African plates and objects can tell stories.

"In Art they looked at snake patterns and painted a wooden snake with lots of detail" said Miss Durand.

As part of the week, the children brought in loose change to raise money for a school in rural Tanzania. The pupils showed great empathy towards the children in Tanzania and did a fantastic job in raising hundreds of pounds, which is being used to buy much needed new tables, benches, books, pens and lunch for the children. The money is being taken straight to the Tanzanian school in March and the children are really looking forward to seeing photographs of all of the new resources being used.

The school has also taken part in 'Walk to School week' which is a national school event. As part of this a competition was held to make a pair of shoes from materials at home. There were so many amazing entries as you can see from the photos. Well done to all those who took part. ■



Potential sale of land for development; School seeks permission from the Secretary of State for Education

By Christine Atkinson

Chiltern Edge School has gained Foundation status, is now self-governing and no longer managed by Oxfordshire County Council. It is in need of some investment funds to improve the facilities and infrastructure in order to provide "what is best for pupils education and their wider life".

The school has identified a portion of the school's playing fields as potential for development, known as SON 15a. This is an area of 2.2 hectares and in May 2013 it was accepted as a Strategic Housing Location Allocation Assessment (SHLAA) site by SODC. It then had to be considered as a possible site for development by the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) working party. The school site as a whole is over 10.7 hectares, and so the site is less than a fifth of the total.

Chiltern Edge was built during 1956 and opened in September 1957. It has ageing infrastructure, which the proceeds from any land sale could help to improve – for example

an energy efficient heating system, an all weather sports pitch, improved IT, lighting and other classroom facilities. There is also a need to improve basic building problems like drains and windows.

The Governing Body of Chiltern Edge has to request permission from the Secretary of State for Education before progressing with any sale of the land, and needed to consult with their partners including students, parents and the local community.

This six week process was started in January with a letter to all the parents of students attending the school, and followed by two meetings at the school which were open to the public as well as parents. As at publication of the magazine no valid objections had been received.

Permission from the Secretary of State only gives permission for the progression to land sale and does not mean that planning permission is sought nor given.

All the minutes from both meetings are available on the school website under the Community tab. ■

www.chilternedge.oxon.sch.uk/neighbourhoodplan.html



Note: Whole site shown in blue. Inner built site shown in black. **Son 15A+:** Inner potential development site Son 15A+ shown in red. Southern boundary from 2nd Oak Tree on Kidmore Lane to alignment with SW corner of most SWly school building.

Village centre housing development

A new planning application has been submitted for the backland development of six houses in the village centre.

In May 2013 Elegant Homes secured permission - on appeal to a Government inspector - to build six new homes behind the Tandoori Connoisseur and Day Lewis Pharmacy in Wood Lane.

In January of this year they submitted a new application to increase the height of the two detached and four semi-detached dwellings from 1.5 to 2-storey. They also wish to build four large garages and two car ports on-site – contrary to what the inspector had previously ruled.

The access road in the new proposal has been re-positioned and now stops just beyond the fence of 19 Wood Lane (Maitlands), which could potentially open up the area for further backland development, should land become available.

Sonning Common Parish Council's planning committee considered the new application on 3 February and agreed, unanimously, to recommend to South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) that it be refused.

A letter from the planning committee to SODC says: "The current application increases the scale of building on this site and adversely impacts on the amenity and privacy of existing neighbours and surrounding uses.

The design is inappropriate for the location, demonstrating over-development and excess height, mass, bulk and overall scale.

Because of the over-development and provision of garages and proto-garages, which will all potentially become used for storage, there will not be adequate parking provision on the site – with consequent unwanted overspill in the sensitive and problematic environment on Wood Lane."

Peter Neville, from Elegant Homes, attended the parish council meeting to speak in favour of the application. Mr Neville offered to meet with any concerned residents to discuss design modifications to reduce the impact on the potential loss of privacy to neighbours.

Mr and Mrs Smith, of 26 Grove Road, were present to object to the plans. SODC has received written objections from a number of other residents.

■ Since the parish council's meeting on 3 February, Elegant Homes has amended the current application to include the reduction of ridge heights of the proposed properties from 8.7m to 7.5m and eaves heights by 1m. The consented plans allow for ridge heights of 6.7m.

For further information on the amended plans visit the Parish office or www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/find-application. Quote planning reference: P13/S3776/FUL. Or phone the Planning Department on: 01491 823740. ■



Rugby Club win with Santa

In return for such great support during the Xmas run Shirehall RFC were given half of the £ 696 total amount raised during their enthusiastic door to door collection on three evenings in December around Sonning Common.

As a result the Shirehall Rugby Club elected to donate 50% of these funds to the Beating Bowel Cancer charity and the other half to the Duchess of Kent House hospice in Reading.



New Lime Green bus service for Sonning Common

Since Monday 10 March, new gas-powered single-deck buses in a two tone green livery have replaced our buses on the 2/2a route. The new buses have very low emissions and provide a smoother quieter ride and feature more space for baby buggies and a dedicated wheelchair space – plus free wi fi.

The Lime bus will hopefully encourage new customers to leave their cars at home so that the service to our Sonning Common remains viable. An earlier start time of 5.56am from Peppard and a later return 8.30pm from Reading is a change to the timetable – otherwise it remains with a daily service every 30 minutes. ■

Colin Reynolds



Whites Coaches

also runs a service from Sonning Common to Henley Town Hall

| Monday – Friday (3 services) | Saturday (1 service) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Unicorn | 07.55 10.15 12.59 08.00 |
| Peppard Road (shops) | 07.58 10.17 13.25 08.02 |
| Westleigh Drive | 08.03 10.21 13.29 08.06 |
| Red Lion (Roth-Pepp) | 08.06 10.26 13.34 08.11 |
| Henley Town Hall | 08.30 10.40 13.48 08.25 |

Henley Town Hall to Sonning Common Return Service

| | Mon/Fri (Friday) | Mon/Thu | Mon/Fri | Saturday (1 service) |
|------------------|------------------|---------|---------|-------------------------|
| Henley Town Hall | 12.35 (14.35) | 15.35 | 17.34 | 14.00 |

Sonning Common Return Journey Time: +25 minutes from above.

Advanced Kitchen & Bathroom Solutions

Luxury within Reach

Free design/feasibility advice
Entire project package inc. building/structural work, plastering, tiling, flooring & decoration.

'supply and fit' or 'fit only' service
Please call/email to arrange a site visit

07812 998050

advancedprojects@btinternet.com



LANDSCAPING (HARD OR SOFT)
FENCING • TURFING • PATIOS • HEDGING
WATER FEATURES

James Watkins

'Oak Grove' • 13 Grove Road • Sonning Common • Berkshire RG4 9RH
Telephone: 0118 972 2659

Robin James
OPTICIANS



- Comprehensive eye examinations
- Full contact lens service
- Free specs for children
- Extensive range of designer frames
- Main agent for Zeiss and Rodenstock lenses
- Free parking

0118 947 2099

www.robinjames.co.uk

44 Church St, Caversham, Reading (opposite Waitrose)

BONNER LOCKSMITHS

INSURANCE APPROVED

DOORS & WINDOW LOCKS SUPPLIED & FITTED,
CHANGED OR UPGRADED (BS3621)

DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL PREMISES
DIGITAL LOCKS • BARS

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE

ALL AREAS COVERED

01491 680216



CRESTWELL HOUSE

CALL OUT SERVICE

FULL MEMBER
OF BRITISH
LOCKSMITH
INSTITUTE

Beech Lane, RG8 0PX • Woodcote Nr. Reading
PROPRIETOR: S. J. BONNER

GIRL POWER

Female Electrician

Local - Honest – Reliable

Please call Jess

07870 507749

for all your
electrical needs



PEPPARD
BUILDING SUPPLIES

FIRST CHOICE FOR THE PROFESSIONAL



FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

- Competitive Trade Pricing
- Bulk Bags
- Specialist Insulation Stockists
- Indian Sandstone
- Bricks/Blocks /Aggregates
- Trade Shop
- Plenty of Parking
- Web Offers!

Call **0118 972 2028** / Sat Nav **RG4 8XA**
Visit www.peppardbuildingsupplies.com

*Terms and
Conditions
apply

Wisepower

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS LIMITED

T. 07810 798798 / 0118 972 2767

E. wisepower@btinternet.com

W. wisepowerelectricalcontractors.co.uk

4 Mullens Terrace, Chazey Heath, Reading, RG4 9ES

Customer Satisfaction our Priority

- Local, Reliable, Honest, Experienced Contractor
- Estd. over 30 years
- All electrical works undertaken including: new build, extensions, re-wires. outside/garden works
- Small or large works
- Test and inspect
- Fire alarms



Oxfordshire Schools and NHS Trust Approved Contractor.

Computer Problems?

Is your PC outdated, misbehaving, virus infected?

Fault Diagnosis, Maintenance & Upgrades,
Data Recovery & Migration, Virus Cleaning,
Networking, Broadband and much more.

Call **Robin Piercey**
at Influential Computers on

01491 680036

or visit www.influentialcomputers.com

GRAHAM'S
MAINTENANCE

Painting & Decorating – Fascias & Soffits
Door & Window Fitting – Plumbing

Fitted Bathrooms – Floor & Wall Tiling – Fencing & Decking

Wood & Laminate Flooring– Sheds Supplied & Fitted

Garden Maintenance – Guttering & Flat Roofing etc...

FREE ESTIMATES 0118 972 3114



JL COX
Plastering

• Ceilings • Walls • Dry Lining • Rendering
• Pebble Dashing • Patch Repair Work

Call **Jamie on 01189 242861**

Or Email : jlcox.plastering@hotmail.co.uk

Kidbys Sheds & Timber Buildings

Tel: **0118 972 33 80**

Kidbys Yard, 28 Kennylands Road
Sonning Common, Reading, RG4 9JT
www.kidbys.co.uk Fax: 0118 972 10 02

Time 4 Pilates

Want to look and feel great!!
Try Pilates – controlled, yet gentle exercise

Classes in Sonning Common area
Including Ante and Post Natal

Mondays / Tuesdays / Thursdays
Beginners and Intermediates
Max 12 in Group (6 in Pregnancy classes)
Private sessions also available

Christine Brook – Member of Body Control Pilates® Association
Ring 07789 717017 or email chris@time4pilates.co.uk
Website at www.time4pilates.co.uk

CURTAINS,
BLINDS, PELMETS,
TIE BACKS ETC.

ALL AT COMPETITIVE
PRICES

CALL CAROLINE ON
0118 954 2448

OR
0781 561 0007

Byways Dental Practice

Quality Care Dedicated Team

Byways provides friendly and professional dental care
and is located in the tranquil surroundings of beautiful
Checkendon village. Our services include:

- + All aspects of general dentistry
- + Teeth whitening and cosmetics
- + NHS for children & anyone in full-time education
- + Affordable payment plans
- + Flexible opening times
- + Ample free car parking



Byways
dental

To book an appointment or for more
information call us on 01491 680412
or email info@bywaysdental.co.uk

Main St, Checkendon, RG8 0SP Tel 01491 680412

VILLAGE BARBERS

0118 972 3930

24 PEPPARD ROAD
SONNING COMMON

£1 OFF WITH THIS VOUCHER
CHILDREN'S PLAYROOM

CUT - £12 ONE GRADE - £9 TWO GRADES - £10
CUT & BLOW DRY - £13 CHILDREN UNDER 10 - £9
CHILDREN 10 TO 16 - £11
SENIOR CITIZEN - £8 RESTYLE - £15

Kidmore End Pre School Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday 26 April / 11am - 2pm

at Kidmore End Primary School (new venue)

A fantastic morning for all the family - Easter Egg hunt plus craft activities, lucky dip, pluck-a-duck, BBQ, cakes, refreshments, raffle and silent auction

Tickets are just £3.50 per child and Adults go free

Please contact Felicity at flickhaines@hotmail.com or the pre-school - enquiries@keps.co.uk

All the details are also on the Pre-school's website - www.kidmoreendpreschool.co.uk

This is always a popular event, so remember to let your friends and family know about it now to avoid disappointment!

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF RESIDENTS

Monday 12 May 7pm, Village Hall

A third Thames Bridge? What do you think?

Speakers

Cllr. Tony Page, Deputy Leader Reading Borough Council: County Cllr.

David Bartholomew: District Cllr.

Paul Harrison: Parish Cllr. Leigh Rawlins.

Nottakwire announces its Summer Concerts

Friday 27 June at 6pm and Saturday 28 June at 2pm. S.C. Village Hall, Wood Lane.

Programme: WW1; Les Miserables; Spirituals; Abba.

PLEASE SUPPORT US

ALL proceeds will be donated to the following Sonning Common Organisations: S.C. Health centre / The Village Gardeners / S.C. Lunch Club / Club SC (Youth Club) / SC Scouts - newly formed.

TICKET PRICES (include refreshments)
Adults: £8 / 12yrs and under: £3

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!
To Reserve your ticket/s, telephone Liz on 01189 477 302. Remaining tickets for sale FROM 5 JUNE in Occasions, Wood Lane S.C. We look forward to welcoming you.

WHIST DRIVE

Batten House

Tuesdays 2pm - £2.50 per ticket
Tea & biscuits available
Further details call 972 3460

**CHILTERN EDGE
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**

SPRING SHOW

Saturday 5th April 2014
2.30 - 4.30pm
at
Chiltern Edge School
Reades Lane
Sonning Common

Show Classes:
Flowers, Floral Art, Fruit & Vegetables, Domestic, Handicraft, Childrens Classes, & Photography

Refreshments, Plant Stall, Tombola & Raffle

Everybody is very welcome to attend
New Members Welcome
FREE ADMISSION

LIBRARY CLOSURE FOR EASTER

The library will be closed from Good Friday to Easter Monday inclusive. There will be no story time on Saturday 19 April.

Traditional Folk Music Session

Hare & Hounds, Sonning Common
Wednesday 9 April 8 - 11pm
Musicians and drinkers welcome!
Facebook 'Hare & Hounds Session'
Mandy - 07867785632

BALLS OF WOOL NEEDED

Do you have any unwanted wool - double knitting wool, any colour please!

We are a group of six local knitters who make blankets. 60 blankets have been donated to several organisations, some abroad and the latest batch are going to the John Radcliffe Hospital to their day centre patients.

Our supply is diminishing now and people have been very generous in the past, with either wool or a donation to buy some.

If you can help us at all, please contact Linda Webb on 9722927 or June Fisher on 0721398.

Activity Fridays in the Library

'Knit & Natter' or 'Crochet & Chat' mornings
A group are interested. Ask for details in the library

Two Scrabble Clubs meet first and second Fridays of the month

WHY NOT COME TO TEA
COME AND JOIN US AT
THE MAD HATTERS TEA PARTY
WE SHALL BE THERE AT
THE SONNING COMMON VILLAGE HALL
ON SATURDAY,
26th APRIL FROM 2.00 O'CLOCK TILL 4.00
CHARGE £3 A HEAD FOR LOVELY TEA AND EATS
THERE WILL BE A RAFFLE AND A SALES TABLE
EVERYONE IS WELCOME
SEE YOU THERE
KIDMORE END ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMENS SECTION



Village Hall needs you!

A volunteer to be Minutes Secretary!
Required 6 times a year for 2 hours.
Then e-mailing them to the committee
Please contact Sue Frayling Cork
scvh@btinternet.com

ANNUAL ARTS and CRAFT display

Items for display in the village hall
Requested on Sunday 4 May, 12noon to 2pm

IT'S A SCAM

Fraudsters want your PIN and bank card

- 1 A fraudster telephones you claiming to be from your bank or the police. They tell you that your bank card details have been used fraudulently.
- 2 They suggest that you hang up and ring the bank/police back to ensure the call is genuine. Don't be fooled - they stay on the line. They then tell you to read out or key in your PIN.
- 3 They send a taxi/courier to you to collect your bank card. With this and your PIN, they spend your money.

JUST REMEMBER:
Your bank or the police will never ask for your PIN or bank card - don't give them to anybody!

If you've been a victim of this crime call the police on 101.

THAMES VALLEY POLICE



MARKING TIME by Michael Snelgrove

a fast moving comedy will be performed
in-the-round at Peppard Memorial Hall
April 10, 11 and 12 at 8pm

The action takes place at a teachers' residential centre where five diverse characters meet to mark exams papers. The far-from-perfect Howard leads his team through this chaotic time, where the frustrations of besotted Pat, pontificating Oliver, efficient Judith and young Ian become increasingly apparent.

Tickets at £7 each available from Occasions in Sonning Common or 972 2632
chilternplayers@gmail.com

VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS

Sonning Common Village Hall

WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL AND WEDNESDAY 7 MAY
10.30 to 12 noon

This event is open to everyone in the village

ALL WELCOME & FREE ENTRY

Coffee/Tea & Biscuits (small donation appreciated)

Come and meet people, bring along friends, chat or just relax.

Book and Bric-a-brac Table

Hosted by Sonning Common Women's Institute

Profits to local projects

Call My Driver

**Friendly & Reliable
Taxi Service**

Based in Sonning Common

07796 688477

Shaun Guard TV AERIAL SERVICES

- **Poor Reception Solved** - Aerials repaired & supplied
- **TVs** - Hung on your wall for you. Also supplied & tuned
- **Extra TV Points** - For aerial and Sky (In HD!)
- **Sky TV** - Also Foreign Language TV

Call Henley-on Thames 01491 699114

A part of  OXFORD AERIALS

T.C. FULLER PLUMBING & HEATING

- Installation • Maintenance • Service • Repair
- Boiler replacement, heating system upgrade & adaptations, power flush.
- Hot water cylinder replacement.
- All plumbing work undertaken.
- Bath/Shower rooms, water softeners-salt supplied.
- No call out charge • Free estimates • Fully insured

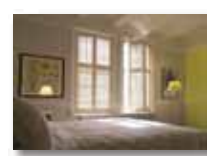
Tel: 0118 9724097
Mob: 07800 914 880



SB

SMART BLINDS & SHUTTERS LTD

Perfection by Design



Family run business that cares
All made to your exact needs

Fantastic range of samples
Free quotation & fitting

Why are we so different? Because we love what we do!

Showroom: 118 Henley Road, Caversham, RG4 6DH

0118 950 9449

www.smartblinds.org

DK Builders

Daren Kilroy



BRICKLAYING, EXTENSIONS,
GARDEN WALLS, PATIOS ETC



OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

CAVERSHAM, READING 07951736745
0118 3759407



gunningplumbing.com
• plumbing • heating • gas •

**ALL DOMESTIC PLUMBING, HEATING, & GAS WORK
INSTALLATIONS, REPAIRS, & EMERGENCIES**

**CAVERSHAM BASED
GAS SAFE REGISTERED ENGINEER
SERVING READING & THE SURROUNDING AREA**

CALL ANDREW ON 07815 304 931

www.gunningplumbing.com



Sonning Common

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS... The Parish Boundary Review

Community Governance Reviews

Government recommends that every 10 to 15 years a Community Governance Review (CGR) into how local communities are governed should happen. In 2013 South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) asked all 86 town and parishes to review how they were governed and to recommend appropriate changes, including to their parish boundaries. ■

Sonning Common parish boundary

Our parish boundary was set in 1952 when the village was very much smaller.

The review criteria state firstly that: 'boundaries should be clearly defined, separating one community from another through natural or man-made boundaries' and, secondly, that: 'boundaries should not straddle housing developments, resulting in neighbours being in different parishes from one another.'

The present boundary between Sonning Common and Rotherfield Peppard parishes, on the northern edge of the village, does not meet either criterion as it runs between houses and along streets. Furthermore, some residents within the built area of Sonning Common are not represented on our parish council, yet the criteria say that: 'boundaries should provide for the effective representation of residents on local councils.' ■

Sonning Common Parish Council's proposals

1. To move Chiltern Edge School from the parish of Kidmore End into Sonning Common.
2. To move the tip of the triangle between Kennylands Road and Peppard Road from the parish of Eye and Dunsden into Sonning Common.
3. To reposition our northern boundary along the Stony Bottom ridge to bring in the whole Sonning Common settlement as defined by SODC for planning purposes and housing allocations.
4. To increase the number of parish councillors from 12 to 15 to handle our growing workload.

These proposals can be seen in the Parish Office or on our website www.sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk ■

Current position

SODC's working group has recommended acceptance of proposals 1 and 2 (above) but rejection of proposals 3 and 4.

In refusing proposal 3, the northern boundary change, they actually state that the present boundary is '**unsatisfactory in community governance terms**'. This would leave Sonning Common with an unfair and illogical boundary.

- **Unfair** because over 300 residents in the Sonning Common settlement use our services and facilities but don't contribute to parish coffers or have representation on the parish council.
- **Unfair** because SODC's allocation of 138 new homes to Sonning Common is based on the size of the whole settlement, including much of Rotherfield Peppard. Thus, 23 of the new homes (17%) that we have to find sites for are because Rotherfield Peppard homes are included in the calculations.
- **Illogical** because it does not properly separate Sonning Common from Rotherfield Peppard – missing a key SODC criterion.

This 'do nothing' proposal is open for public consultation until 31 May. Unless it is overturned, our northern parish boundary will remain unchanged and the first opportunity in over 60 years to establish a fair and logical parish boundary will be lost. ■

Next steps

The parish council has protested strongly to SODC about its recommendation to reject proposals 3 and 4 - our letter to them is on our website.

SODC is asking for views on its recommendations by 31 May so we are asking our residents to support us by demanding a boundary that is 'satisfactory in community governance terms and logical and fair to this parish'.

Please send emails to: cgr@southandvale.gov.uk or letters to: CGR, Legal and Democratic Services, SODC, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford OX10 8QS. If you could copy them to us (clerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk) it would be much appreciated. ■

Extended opening hours

The Parish Office is now open to the public on Tuesdays from 1400 until 1800 as well as on Mondays from 0930 to 1230. At other times please phone 0118 972 3616 to leave a message or make an appointment. ■

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

For all matters please contact Philip Collings, Parish Clerk on 0118 972 3616 or email clerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk

This page has been paid for by the Parish Council.

Police *news*



Hare Coursing

With the introduction of the Hunting Act 2004 on 18 February 2005, all forms of hare coursing were banned in the UK. Under the Act, hare coursing is defined as 'a competition in which dogs are, by the use of hares, assessed as to the skill in hunting hares'.

A person commits an offence under the Act if they participate, attend, knowingly facilitate, enter or allow a dog to be used or if they permit land that belongs to them to be used for the purpose of hare coursing.

Hares are in decline and their destruction is a concern. But with hare coursing there is also associated criminal damage - to fencing/hedging to gain access, to the land with the indiscriminate use of vehicles, and in some instances intimidation of landowners and other users of the land.

If you believe hare coursing is taking place on your land call the police from a safe location. ■

Courier Fraud

Attention of all Private Hire Companies & Drivers

Elderly/vulnerable members of the public have been receiving unsolicited telephone calls from fraudsters purporting to be from their bank or police, stating that their systems have spotted a fraudulent payment on their card(s).

The fraudster then gains the person's trust and seeming to offer assistance will then explain that the bank will need to collect the card(s).

The fraudster will advise the victim to wrap the card(s) in tissue paper or bubble wrap to disguise its appearance in the envelope.

The fraudster will then arrange a courier or private hire company/mini cab driver to attend the person's address and collect the card(s).

The courier will then be directed to an address where they will be met by the offender outside of the address to collect the card.

Thames Valley Police will thoroughly investigate each case of this type of fraud and will prosecute any private hire company or individual facilitating this crime with being involved in a Conspiracy to Defraud. The advice from Thames Valley Police is if you have the slightest suspicion about a fare of this nature contact the Police immediately by phoning 101 or 999 if it is an emergency. To couriers / drivers: Do not deliver the package and advise the victim accordingly that this is a scam. ■

Think Jessica, scam mail is blackmail

The charity Think Jessica (www.thinkjessica.com) provides a lot of useful advice about scams. Their 12-page booklet, 'Scam mail is blackmail', is particularly useful and covers: lottery and prize draw scams, clairvoyant scams, catalogue scams, courier scams, bank / building society scams and

more. You can order a free hard copy of this booklet by writing to: Think Jessica PO Box 4442 Chesterfield S44 9AS (Please enclose a 2nd class stamp) Or by emailing: advice@thinkjessica.com

They also provide information packs, including a DVD, which cost £7 per pack, and free downloadable posters which you can access at www.thinkjessica.com/posters.htm.

THINK JESSICA



Properties we've recently sold in Sonning Common

Here at Bridges we continue to experience a high demand for property in and around Sonning Common. If you're considering selling this Spring please contact us for a no obligation market appraisal.

1 Church Road Caversham Reading RG4 7AA
0118 946 2121
www.bridgesproperty.co.uk

BRIDGES
Independent Estate Agents

St Michaels Church Hall

(rear of St Michaels Church, Peppard Road)

Available to hire daytime & evenings
at competitive rates

A light and airy hall with excellent
facilities incl. chairs, tables, kitchen,
updated toilet facilities and car park

Contact Sarah Woodage 07885 468959

Email: puppylovedonny@hotmail.co.uk

Jeffries Consultancy Services Ltd.
Accountancy Services

**An Accountant That Will Save You Time
& Paper Work**

Excellent customer service & free initial consultation

- Self-Assessments
- Corporation Tax Returns
- Business Advice
- Accounts

Call: 0118 9722611
Email: Keith.Jeffries@jcslimited.co.uk

CERAMIC WALL & FLOOR TILING

Adhesive / Grout / Trims Supplied
Floor Levelling & Plastering
Free Estimates & Advice

Call Mick 0118 901 1777 / Mobile: 07841 586003

THAMES VALLEY GYMNASTICS CLUB
Bird Wood Court
Peppard Road
Sonning Common
(Registered Charity No. 1062939)

- ◆ Modern Gymnastics facility with "state of the art" equipment and dance studio
- ◆ Elite/Competitive squad coaching to Regional/National levels
- ◆ General Gymnastics classes for Boys/Girls – all ages/abilities
- ◆ Pre-School programmes
- ◆ Ballet Classes
- ◆ Play Gym for the Under 5s (Tuesday & Thursday a.m.)
- ◆ Gym Birthday Parties
- ◆ Room for hire

*For further information, please call in or telephone
Kevin Cassidy, Club Manager, on 0118 972 4401*

COLLINS, DRYLAND & THOROWGOOD LLP SOLICITORS

12 Hart Street Henley-on-Thames RG9 2AU

Please contact Mrs Wendy Holmes
(formerly of our Sonning Common Office)

Telephone: 01491 572323

email: wendyholmes@collins-dryland.co.uk

HEIGHTS
Tree Care

- All Aspects of Tree Work
- Hedge Cutting
- Private and Commercial

Fully Qualified Professionals
£5 Million Public Liability Insurance
Laurence Williams
Phone: 0118 9484274
Mobile: 07813 586 735
Email: info@heightstreecare.co.uk
Web Site: www.heightstreecare.co.uk



Stafford & Son
Local Garden & Building
Maintenance Services

Offering services in all aspects of garden and grounds maintenance, be it large or small, including hedge and tree work.

Fencing, landscaping, pressure washing and general ground works.

Interior and exterior building maintenance, including gutter repairs / clearing and handy man services.

Andrew Stafford
Phone: 01491 642 191
Mob: 07899 980 137

PODIATRY CLINIC

Professional treatment & advice for your feet

Contact

Heidi Snookes-Owen

PODIATRIST/CHIROPODIST

B.Sc., D.Pod.M., S.R.Ch., M.Ch.S.

HPC REGISTERED

0118 972 4742

COMMUNITY GOVERNORS view

By CHRISTINE ATKINSON

Chiltern Edge School is at the heart of our local community, and is run by a dedicated team of governors, Head Teacher and staff. We sought out the views of two of the Community Governors –

Simon Cuthbert, Deputy Principal at Henley College, and also Toby Greenwood who recently answered the advert for an additional community governor, tell us about their roles in the school

Chiltern Edge School

Simon Cuthbert

I'm Deputy Principal at the Henley College. I grew up in Yorkshire and came down to live in Reading over 25 years ago. My main subject is Physics but I have also taught on vocational programmes in Electronics and Computing. I have been married for 20 years and we have 3 sons (the eldest are twins and are presently applying for university). I have been involved in Chiltern Edge for 9 years after hearing about it through a work colleague who had previously been a governor at the school.

Having been promoted on to the senior leadership team at Henley, I felt that it was very important to have close working relationships with, and to be able to support the school especially as so many of the Chiltern Edge pupils progressed onto courses at Henley.

The time spent on the role varies from week to week. There are main meetings every couple of months which last around 2 hours, in between there maybe visits/ other meetings, minutes and agendas to prepare and on my particular committee we get all the data on exam results and student progress through the year which can take some time to digest. It probably works out at maybe an hour a week if it was totalled over the year.

The enthusiasm and energy of the other governors who go out of their way to help the school improve and the chance to better understand education pre-16. Simon feels "It has been good to get a feel for what our future students will have been taught, and how. Seeing the dedication of the teachers and the managers as they strive to make the school outstanding (on the curriculum

committee we get regular feedback from different curriculum areas which is very instructive). One thing we have seen over the last few years is a definite sense of the school doing better (culminating in a good OFSTED grade recently) and that is very rewarding."

Toby Greenwood

On 31 December I retired completely after some 40 years in and out of the law, but mostly in. I was a solicitor in Henley-on-Thames for 35 years with Cooper Son and Caldecott, until they were taken over by B Legal Limited. For 18 years I was senior partner and as such was helping to run the firm.

During this time I was also a Scout leader, squash player, singer and was involved with a number of charities. In my spare time I brought up three sons with my wife Judy.

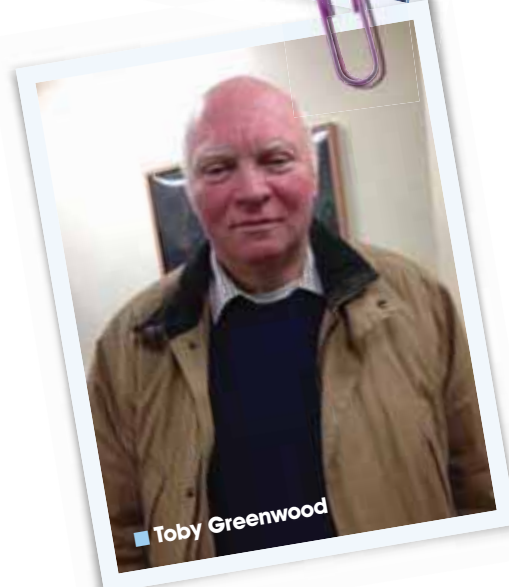
After I retired I started to look for voluntary work and noticed the advertisement for a Community Governor of Chiltern Edge School. This was just what I was looking for as it involved both governance and young people. So far I have thoroughly enjoyed it, particularly promoting squash and encouraging the students to play it. Every Friday at lunchtime I give coaching and the number of takers seems to be growing.

Chiltern Edge seems to be a happy environment and I was pleased to see it divided into houses. In the school I went to the house system worked well, as it seems to do at Chiltern Edge.

I am looking forward to a long and happy association with Chiltern Edge School as a Community Governor.



Simon Cuthbert



Toby Greenwood

Chiltern Edge School *in our local community*

By **CHRISTINE ATKINSON**

All of my children attended the village primary school, and two are now going to our local secondary school. I believe we should count ourselves very lucky that we have the use of two great schools in the village.

Most people know they are there and see all the cars and buses going to and fro every day. No doubt some residents of Grove Road and Reade's Lane probably suffer from the traffic and look forward to the holidays!

What lots of villagers don't realise is that the students from Chiltern Edge get involved in all sorts of charity and community work that goes unseen. This includes charity fundraising, volunteering as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's award, Amnesty International club, and community involvement in year 8 where the students help out on the school reception, library, in the local primary school, Children's Centre and in Bishopswood School.

During February the Amnesty International lunchtime club received news that they have raised amongst the most funds over the last year of any school student youth group in the UK! What a great achievement considering there are only two students managing the group at the moment! They

also organised and hosted a concert, with students performing, to raise funds for the human rights charity which raised another £260 from ticket sales.

A lot of the students take part in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme each year which involves them having to volunteer for three or six months to help others. Some of the children go to help in local charity shops, or assist regularly at clubs for younger children (eg. after school clubs, table tennis). The scheme encourages them to try some new skills and also to go on an expedition involving a long walk and overnight camping. Students have to plan and find their own route, provide their food for two days – including washing up and tidying the site! - and carry it all, there and back.

There are four 'houses' within the school – Lyra, Pegasus, Draco and Orion and each pupil, staff member and governor belongs to one of them. Each house chooses a charity to support at the start of each year and then all of their fundraising goes there at the end of the year.

The main fundraising event is the annual 10 mile sponsored walk around our beautiful countryside which is held on the last day of term in October. Almost every student takes part and collects sponsorship for



their house. A lot of the students dress up in the house colour and quite a few run the whole route. This year the school raised over £3000 from the sponsored walk, which is split between the houses.

During the walk this year a huge tragedy occurred which has affected the whole school; staff, students, governors and many more.

One of my own friends, and a friend to the whole school passed away after suffering a heart attack during the walk. Martin Floyd taught in the technology department at Chiltern Edge and so all students had been taught by him, and counted him as one of their favourite members of staff.

The school held a memorial assembly for Martin in February. Staff and students were invited to wear red for the day in aid of the British Heart Foundation (BHF). Martin's family and friends, along with the people who helped him and were with him that day, attended the assembly. A fantastic £380 was raised for the BHF. Pauline Conway, vice chair of the Governors, attended the assembly and said it was very emotional. She told me:

"The Head Teacher Mr Sadler talked about the British Heart Foundation and the importance of their work, of keeping a healthy heart and how the money raised will help the charity."



"He announced that a prize for Design Technology will be awarded each year in Martin's memory. In the Spring a bench with a plaque and a tree will be bought for the school to commemorate him.

During the assembly the students were very reflective as it was a very moving occasion. Mr Payne (a member of the teaching staff) read some of the memories left in the book of remembrance and Mrs Casserly (the School Business Manager) read a poem written by the Facilities Manager Mr Lodge.

The students applauded as a mark of respect and reflected on their own thoughts during some music and photos, chosen by his family. The occasion highlighted the great sense of community, care and family in our school. All the students behaved impeccably, reflecting their enormous respect for Martin." ■

The school is rightly very proud of the work that the students do for charity and the local community – some of the staff have also recently run the Reading half marathon for their houses, so there will be an increase in their totals before the end of the year!

House Charities so far...a fantastic grand total of over £4,000...

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Draco | £1179 – Guide Dogs for the Blind |
| Orion | £966 – Camp Mohawk |
| Pegasus | £921 – ABC to Read |
| Lyra | £1015 – Chiltern Centre |

ODE TO MARTIN

By **DAVE LODGE**

OH MARTIN, DEAR MARTIN WE MISS YOU SO BAD
THE SMILE ON YOUR FACE AND QUICK WIT MADE US GLAD
THE JOKES THAT YOU TOLD WITH STRAIGHT FACE AND SOME CRUDE!
HELPED PASS THE DAY AND LIGHTEN THE MOOD
MANY TIMES YOU HAVE HELPED US, CUTTING UP WOOD
THEN CLEARING THE MESS WHERE STEVE AND I STOOD!
THEN REMEMBER THE TIMES WHEN YOU BORROWED OUR TOOLS
HELPING STUDENTS DO COURSEWORK MAKING THEIR STOOLS!
IN OUR SCHOOL, MANY TASKS, YOU CARRIED OUT
ALL CHEERFULLY DONE WITHOUT EVEN A SHOUT
UNSEEN BY MANY, TAKING A FRIDGE TO THE TIP,
DRIVING THE MINIBUS, TAKING STUDENTS ON TRIPS.
THE TIME YOU GAVE MAKING PROPS FOR THE PLAYS
AND HELPING IN CLASSROOMS THROUGHOUT THE DAYS
THE LEGACY YOU LEAVE WILL ALWAYS BE GREAT!
A TECHNICIAN YES - BUT MUCH MORE A MATE.

Advanced Project Solutions

'Affordable Quality by Local Tradesmen'

Free Advice

Concept to Completion Service Available
Extensions, Newbuilds, Kitchens & Luxury

Bathrooms (supply and fit or fit only)
Please call/email to arrange a site visit

07812 998050

advancedprojects@btinternet.com

Computer repairs

Specialist in home-user & small business support:
Virus removal, slow computer, data backup,
data recovery, booting problems, hardware diagnosis

Over 10 years experience

0759 898 3292 ✉ jason@millwardit.co.uk

millwardit.co.uk

TOMALIN & SON

Funeral Directors

A Family Owned Funeral Service

Tel: (01491) 573370

ANDERSON HOUSE
38 READING ROAD
HENLEY-ON-THAMES
RG9 1AG

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

TOMALIN & SON

Pre-Paid Funeral Plans

For more information, contact

Tel: (01491) 573370

£40 John Lewis Voucher
or
£40 Donation to Sue Ryder Care
with each plan taken out on production of this advert

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

 **JJC Electrical Services Limited**
Professional, Reliable and Local

Sonning Common Electrician
Jerry Cole

Telephone: 07834 346 487

E-mail: jjcelectservltd@tiscali.co.uk

Website: www.jjcelectservltd.co.uk

- Fault diagnosis, repair and rewires
- New installation work
- Fuse board changes
- Lighting advice and installation

ELECSA
Approved Contractor
www.elecsa.co.uk



Tai chi for Health

Kidmore End War Memorial Hall,
Reades Lane, Sonning Common

Tuesdays (Term time)

9.30-10.30 - Improvers
10.45-11.45 - Beginners

Chen style Tai chi
Improve your stamina, balance, strength
& co-ordination

please ring Debbie on 07802 347943
www.debbiepage.org

PET COUNTRY SUPPLIES

We stock all types of

- ✓ Animal Feed
- ✓ Frozen Meat
- ✓ Farm Feeds

We Stock Products for

- ✓ Animal Well Being
- ✓ Wild Birds
- ✓ Ponds
- ✓ Farm Animals
- ✓ Domestic Animals
- ✓ Wild life
- ✓ Toys and Beds

We have been trading in the village for over 40 years
We have old fashioned friendly Service
We can't stock everything but we can get most things
for your pet! We deliver free on orders over £25.00
COME AND SEE US !!

43a Wood Lane

Sonning Common RG4 9SJ

0118 9723495

Email: interestedin@petcountrysupplies.co.uk
www.petcountrysupplies.co.uk

Open.....Mon to Sat 9 am to 5.30pm (5pm Sat)

9am to 4pm Weds

Closed all day Sunday and Bank Hols

You may be surprised
we now stock



Also We Sell
MEMBERSHIP for
SHIPLAKE & BINFIELD
ANGLING CLUB

JUST FOR KIDS

Hello everyone,

I'm really looking forward to Easter and all the chocolate eggs.
Every year at Easter I go down to Cornwall with my family and
we roll hard boiled eggs down a big hill. What do you like
doing at Easter?

Let me know at junior_editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org



ZACK

SKYLANDERS

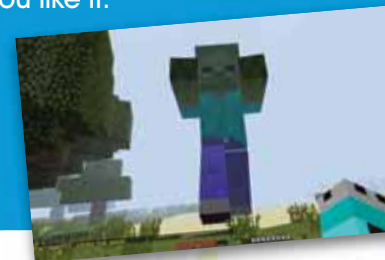
WORD PUZZLE

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | P | R | O | C | K | E | T | B | L |
| C | A | M | O | V | Z | Q | C | L | W |
| P | P | B | X | A | O | Q | V | A | A |
| B | M | O | B | K | N | I | T | S | R |
| O | T | U | H | O | Z | H | W | T | B |
| R | T | N | L | C | O | A | B | Z | E |
| Y | Q | C | R | L | P | M | P | O | Y |
| P | Y | E | D | R | I | O | J | N | E |
| S | E | R | T | Q | J | H | H | E | P |
| R | O | T | P | U | R | E | C | C | T |

BLASTZONE
BOOMJET
BOUNCER
CAMO
CHILL
CHOPCHOP
ERUPTOR
EYEBRAWL
SPROCKET
SPYRO
STINKBOMB
ZAP

MY TIP

My minecraft tip this time is /
summon (username) Giant,
EnderDragon or Squid. You must
have cheats turned on and you
must have 1.7.2 update. I hope
you like it.



BOOK REVIEW

THE GHOST OF GRANIA O'MALLEY
by Michael Morpurgo

I really recommend this adventure story.
Jessie dreams of walking to the top of the
Big Hill, which is where the islanders believe there
is hidden treasure. One day she makes
it, and there she meets a kind, pirate ghost –
Grania O'Malley. After a couple of months, the ghost gives Jessie and
her cousin Jack treasure. They knew immediately what they were going
to do with it. If you want to find out more, read the book yourself!

I liked this story because it was thrilling. It was addictive and
I couldn't wait to find out what happened next. It has lots
of new words I hadn't seen before, and I think girls and boys
of all ages would like it.

FINAL VERDICT: a great book

FILM REVIEW

AFTER EARTH

After Earth is all about a boy and his
dad. Everyone has left Earth because
animals – and aliens – have evolved
to kill humans. The aliens can't see,
but they can sense fear. Unfortunately,
the spaceship this boy and his Dad
are travelling on crashes on Earth. The
dad breaks his legs so it's up to the boy
to go on a mission and find a rescue
beacon. When the boy finds the alien is looking for
him and the beacon can only be sent on a volcano,
he starts to worry! I highly recommend this film and
hope you will like it.

FINAL VERDICT: a great film



My latest project

By ALAN GOSWELL

Reading Tom Fort's treatise on geriatric cycling (I think he is 10 years younger than me) and his wailing about his weight prompted me to write this.

I am losing weight, the spur is my health and my desire to make cycling easier. I love cycle touring but hate it when my diminutive pals streak ahead on hills, my weight is my impediment. I have dieted many times before and then slowly gained weight, I am determined to avoid that this time. I know what makes me lose weight it's very simple, count calories in a food diary. No points, no sins, no groups, just eat what I like, not as much, avoid snacks, and, add in more exercise which makes a huge difference to the rate of weight loss. After I reach my target weight I intend to continue my food diary so that I put in place a new, sustainable regime of diet and exercise that keeps me fit and sustains my reduced weight - that I have realised, is the thing that has been missing in the past.

My aim is to lose 30lbs, the weight of my cycling luggage, panniers, bar bags and camping gear. Thus when I go on a cycle tour it will feel as though I am carrying nothing!

I am using a very good free tablet app. My Fitness Pal is a food, exercise and nutrition diary with a database of 3 million foods, cardiovascular calorie values and a tracking section to monitor your progress. It runs on Android Tablets and phones, Apple iPads and PCs too. You can also scan barcodes to add in any new foods. It is simplicity to use. It takes a little setting up. You can list your favourite foods, store and retrieve meals and thus save a lot of clicks, a regular meal is accessed and recorded very easily. Since it works on a weekly basis if you sin one day you can make up for it the next. There is no starving, no need to eat repellent foods, no low fat regime, no embarrassing meetings, you just eat what you like within the confines of your calorie target. It will tell you if your diet is balanced.

When you start, you can set your rate of weight loss, in my case 1lb a week and this gives you a maximum calorie target per day. In addition to the 1lb weight loss I wanted to achieve 2lbs a week because I wanted to be fitter and because I am impatient. This meant doing 3500 calories of exercise every week. You can stop eating calories or you can burn them, or you can do both. Ignoring Tom Fort's treatise on geriatric cycling I set to. 5 hours moderate cycling a week would shift

that second one pound, but instead I chose a mixture of cycling, walking and rowing.

After 5 weeks it was working exactly as planned, by depriving myself of 3500 calories of food every week and putting in 3500 calories of exercise 10lbs had disappeared and I felt very fit. I interrupted the diet with a two week holiday abroad and picked it up on my return, no problem!

It's a myth that exercise won't budge weight, it will in conjunction with a diet. But! You must be careful not to overdo it. A 10 mile bike ride is OK if you are dieting, but for me 20 miles is too much, I get what cyclists call the bonk and runners call the wall. Be careful.

So, my message to Tom Fort and others despairing of the flab is to ignore the notion that old folk shouldn't cycle. Whatever your age, get on 'yer' bike, it's a cyclists heaven around here. On Your Bike is coming soon. Why not join the surgery's evening bike rides which involve beer? Meet in the car park at 6.30 pm on Tuesdays, and join a nice little 11 mile 700 calorie quiet lane ride to get you started. See you in the woods! ■



Tom Fort SIGNS

Did you see that story about Cornwall County Council installing 63 'No Parking' signs along a one mile stretch of road in Newquay that already had double yellow lines all along it? Yet again, it made one wonder about what goes on in the minds of local authority busybodies.

A few years ago Oxford County Council was at it, with their Quiet Lane signs suddenly sprouting along lanes that we all knew were quiet anyway. Now they don't even have the cash to repair potholes a foot deep.

Grossly extravagant deployment of road signs is a classic symptom of the busybody

mentality. One particularly revolting illuminated one appeared a few months ago at Lord knows what cost outside Queen Anne's School in Caversham advising people to be prepared for their winter journeys. I would never have thought of that.

When the London Olympics were on, there were suddenly signs on motorways all over the place telling people with tickets that it would be a good idea to plan how they were going to get to the venue. Do they think we are all halfwits?

I am particularly fond of those motorway signs warning motorists of the danger of encountering a deer. There is one on the M4

near Hungerford which specifies a 13-and-a-half mile danger stretch ahead – so at 14 miles, assuming you are keeping a tally, you are safe. I wonder if the deer can read the signs.

Then there is Think Bike. Does that mean think about bicycles, or watch out for motorbikes; and either way, what is the earthly use of it? And finally, my favourite: Think Don't Drink. I like to think of all those drivers about to take a glug from their hip flasks when they see this sign and remember what a bad, bad idea that would be. In my head I always turn it round: Drink Don't Think. Now, that is what I call sound advice. ■



What is Pranic Healing?



Pranic Healing is one of the fastest growing complementary therapies in the world. It was brought into the public domain in the 80's by a Chinese Filipino man called Master Choa Kok Sui. Since then it has spread to over 126 countries. Pranic Healing is based on two principles, that the body is self-repairing & that, by increasing the amount of energy available for the body to use, the rate that healing occurs increases. **It is non-touch and is not intended to replace but to complement orthodox medicine.** Pranic Healing can be used to help treat any emotional & physical conditions, for example stress & anxiety, addictions, phobias, insomnia & relationship issues. **Anyone can benefit from Pranic Healing – even your pets!**

Meditation

Most people don't realise that stress is an energy that we carry within us. Meditating is a great way to remove stress & increase energy levels, helping to create a sense of calmness & well-being. It's easy to learn, relaxing & a great way to meet like-minded people.

If you would like more information please contact me.



www.ukpranic-healing.co.uk

T: 07736 298206

E: sjpranichealing@gmail.com



Sarah Jenner

Brambles

Weddings Funerals
Hand-Tied Gift Bouquets

National & International Deliveries
Fully Qualified Florist Free Local Delivery

42 Wood Lane • Sonning Common • RG4 9SL
0118 972 1240 0777 179 0916

We turn feelings into flowers

TradeMark

WINDOWS - DOORS - CONSERVATORIES
FASCIA - SOFFITS - GUTTERING - CLADDING
WINDOW REPAIRS - MISTY GLASS

Use your Local Installer with 30 years experience
For a FREE quotation
Call Mike Dockree on
0118 972 4376 or 07785928190

All window, door & conservatory installations carry a 10 year guarantee and the finished product is independently inspected with all certificates

Fed up with limescale?
A Water Softener would be your solution
Compass Water Softeners
SALT, SALES, SERVICE, INSTALLATION
0118 972 3773 0118 941 0869 0796 700 9838
www.compasswatersofteners.co.uk
Email: martin@compasswatersofteners.co.uk

HELPLINE LANDSCAPE SERVICES

Landscaping - Design, Construction, Garden make over.
Groundwork - Clearance, Footings, Drainage, Grading.
Timber work - Gateways, Decking, Arches, Pergola, Gazebo.
Fencing - Panel, Close Board, Wire mesh, Stock fence.
Gardening - Mowing, Weeding, Pruning, Clearance.
Tree work - Felling, Lopping, Pruning, Clearance.
Driveways - Gravel, Paved, Brick, Concrete.
Ponds - Water features, Ponds, Rills.
Patios - Slab, Stone, Pavers, Brick.
Log's for sale - Cut and split to size.

Based in Sonning Common
Tel / Fax: 0118 9721342
Email: chriscolbeck@btinternet.com

Autumn Leaf

Thinking of moving?

For a free valuation of your property please contact Richard Beville or Adrian Davies

Beville
ESTATE AGENCY

28 Peppard Road, Sonning Common, S.Oxon, RG4 9SU
info@beville.co.uk | www.beville.co.uk | 0118 924 2526

AN INTERVIEW WITH...

Gwyn Arch

His music plays on

By ROS VARNES

Music maestro Gwyn Arch retire? He says he wouldn't contemplate it. At the age of 82, he is still running a music publishing company from his home in Grove Road and is professionally-employed by two international music publishing houses.

However, Gwyn will step down in July after 48 years as musical director of South Chiltern Choral Society. He speaks with great affection of the Sonning Common-based choir group, which he began conducting in 1966. Now numbering more than 100 people, some members have been singing with Gwyn for over 40 years.

Says Gwyn: "I shall miss them and I am sad about that but I am very grateful to them for giving me a choir to conduct. I love them very much. I wouldn't have had it any other way. If I had my time again, I would do exactly the same thing.

"I hope that they progress and improve further in the future under a new conductor and that their repertoire is enlightened."

Although born in Southampton, Gwyn describes himself as being, "thoroughly Welsh", due to his parents' ancestry. His father was a Church of England priest and Gwyn began singing in the church choir every week.

He didn't have any formal music training until the age of 12 when he learned to play

the piano - far too late to be any good, he says! But he became better qualified musically when he began to teach.

It was while working as an English teacher at a school in Rickmansworth that he discovered music was "his thing". He wrote a musical, The Parker Plan, for his students to perform. It was first published in 1962 and became extremely successful, being performed in countries including Kenya and New Zealand as well as all over this country.

Gwyn describes the highest point in his career as being his time as director of music at Bulmershe College of Higher Education, Reading, from 1965 to 1985, where he formed Bulmershe Girls Choir.

The choir toured extensively, visiting the US seven times, among many other countries. They represented the UK seven times in the international rounds of BBC choral competition, 'Let the People Sing', and regularly appeared on national television.

In 1964 Gwyn and his family moved to Sonning Common, living first in Red House Drive before moving to Grove Road in 1985. Gwyn's wife, Jane, is a former deputy headteacher of Sonning Common Primary School and the couple's sons, David and Jonathan, were brought up in the village.

David Arch is musical director for the popular television series, Strictly Come Dancing, and arranges music for stars including Robbie Williams and Susan Boyle, while Jonathan Arch is a keen and talented amateur musician.

In 2006 Gwyn was awarded an MBE for services to music in Berkshire. During his distinguished career, he has shared and

enjoyed music with countless people all over the world.

He says: "Music has been a very important part of my life. It is a great escape for many people. It is therapeutic. When you are singing you are absorbing yourself completely in music. You haven't got time to think about where the mortgage is coming from."

*Gwyn's last concert with the South Chiltern Choral Society will be on Saturday, 5 July at The Concert Hall, Reading. They will be performing Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo (Michael Flanders and Joseph Horowitz). Gwyn's other choir, the Reading Male Voice Choir, will join them and together they will sing a selection of their favourite music. For further information see: www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk



South Chiltern Choral Society
Reading Festival Chorus
Reading Chamber Choir
Reading Adult Choir

**THE ARMED MAN:
A Mass for Peace**
Karl Jenkins
Part of Jenkins' War Requiem

Conductor: Gwyn Arch
With: August Bruns

Sat 5th April 2014 at 7.30 pm
CONCERT HALL
Reading Festival Chorus
Reading Chamber Choir
Reading Adult Choir

Tickets: £10, £15, £20
(£12.50 incl. p.p.)
Book Now! 0118 972 1240 or via our website
www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk



Village Travel Group

With over 30 years' experience running trips for Civil Service sports and social clubs, village resident Andrea Golder, now retired, has begun running coach trips and air tours locally. Operating as 'Thames Valley Tours' on a non-profit-making basis, Andrea runs several short breaks per year using reputable tour operators to ensure quality and security.

Current trips on offer include: The West Coast of Scotland; Bristol & Bath Spa weekend; WWI Battlefields Centenary Tour, Barcelona (by air) and a lovely Christmas trip to Paris staying on a ship moored in the Seine. (There are more trips in the pipeline including Dubrovnik and a mini-cruise).

Details of Andrea's trips can be found in the information binder in the Sonning Common library, Sonning Common Parish Council's website or on www.thamesvalleytours.net. Alternatively e-mail Andrea on amgolder@hotmail.com for further information and/or to be put on an e-mailing list for regular updates.

It is hoped in due course to introduce theatre trips and possibly walking tours if there is sufficient interest.

Whether you are travelling as a group, a couple or an individual you can be sure that you will be made very welcome and well looked after. ■

Sonning Common Health Walks (Spring 2014)

With Spring now here (we hope!) it's good to get out into the beautiful local countryside for a brisk walk to banish any lingering winter blues. I know there is still a lot of mud around, but I'm sure it will start to dry out soon, and the Health Walk timetable provides a programme of walks (10 in all, and all free!) to suit all levels of fitness and ability.

After Easter the new timetable will have new starting places, and we hope to include as many 'bluebell routes' as possible to take advantage of the natural beauty around us.

The timetable is available from the library, the Health Centre and the Herb Farm, or on the website: www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk/timetable. If you'd like to talk to someone about the health walks, phone Colin Davies on 0118 9722527 ■

ROSEMARY DUNSTAN

The Rainbow Children's Centre is based on the Chiltern Edge secondary school site, Reade's Lane, Sonning Common.

It provides services for children aged up to five and their families and supports people in the village and the surrounding areas including Woodcote, Goring and Shiplake. The centre is run by 'Action for Children' who also provide children's centre services in Henley, Wallingford and South Didcot as well as other locations across Oxfordshire.

The Sonning Common centre has been open for a few years now and is becoming a well-established service in the community. The centre offers guidance and support for local families and has a range of weekly sessions including 'stay and play'; 'music and play'; adult education classes and family support.

We are lucky enough to have good links with the Sonning Common library and we support it with running the twice monthly 'rhyme time' sessions at this venue. We also work closely with the local health teams to deliver baby weighing clinics; baby massage; post natal classes and speech therapy sessions at the centre.

Our links with local childcare and education settings in the community are good and we often work together to share good practice and provide support. We are also able to support families to access the funding for 2 and 3 year olds, so that they can attend pre-school settings where they can learn and thrive.

As our base is in Sonning Common we have use of the children's centre mobile bus which goes out to both Woodcote and Goring, on a fortnightly basis. This is a great play facility which includes book borrowing services for children.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help us run sessions and to support with providing advice, information and support to parents and carers of young children. If you are interested in helping in this way, please contact us.

For details of all our sessions or if you have any questions about our services please call 01189 724024 or visit our facebook page (The Rainbow Children's centre – sonning common) or website www.oxonchildrenscentres.org.uk/wps/connect/micro/childrenscentres/rainbow+centre+sonning+common+area ■



WEE-COT SEATING

Upholstery, Loose Covers, Replacement Cushions, Chair Caning, French Polishing & Furniture Repairs

LIZANNE SMITH
TEL: 0118 972 4560

SPRUCE MAINTENANCE SERVICE

For all your property maintenance requirements:

- ◆Decorating - inside and out
- ◆Paper Hanging
- ◆Carpentry - including door easing & hanging
- ◆Wall & Floor Tiling & Silicone Renewal
- ◆Plumbing - leaking taps etc.
- ◆Patio's, Landscaping & Garden Design
- ◆Hedge Cutting & Planting

Pass on your TO DO list

ROB SMITH Tel: 0118 972 4560



Set in an idyllic village location, our small, friendly pre-school creates a very special environment for children guided by a team of highly qualified, caring staff. Please contact us for details. registrar@keps.co.uk

With excellent links to Kidmore End Primary School and only 5 minutes from Caversham, Sonning Common, Peppard and Emmer Green.



Kidmore End Pre-School, Parish Room
Wood Lane, Kidmore End, Reading RG4 9BB
Registered Charity Number 104 6030
www.KidmoreEndPreSchool.co.uk

Graham Blake soft furnishing

- Loose Covers
- Curtains
- Re-upholstery
- Carpets
- Conservatory Blinds
- Quilted Bedspreads
- Tracks & Poles
- Plantation Shutters

TEN YEAR GUARANTEE

For personal, helpful service, please telephone

01844 261 769

07802 213 381

www.grahamblake.com

Established Family Business

wood lane dentistry



Vik Chugani BDS MFDS RCSEdin MSc
Richard McQuillan BDS

- Your local family friendly practice
- Routine general dentistry
- Affordable dental plans with Denplan
- Children seen on the NHS
- Tooth whitening
- Cosmetic dentistry and Implants
- Ample free parking

Now taking on new patients

Saturday and evening appointments available

HAPPY HEALTHY SMILES ...



Wood Lane Sonning Common Reading Berkshire RG4 9SJ
www.woodlanedentistry.co.uk Telephone 0118 9722626

Street & Latin infused...

FITNESS CLASSES

with Esme!

**A FUN WAY
TO EXERCISE
AT YOUR OWN PACE**

Every THURSDAY
7.00pm – 7.45pm

Location: St Michaels Church Hall, Peppard Road,
Sonning Common, Oxfordshire, RG4 9SU.

Classes are **£5.00** pay as you go!
No Dance Experience Required

DRESS CODE

Loose fitting clothes and comfortable footwear are essential.

Do not hesitate to contact me for information:

Call Esme: **07801745996**

or E-mail: esme_c@hotmail.co.uk

For more information about other classes visit:
www.danceconcepts.co.uk E-mail: info@danceconcepts.co.uk

PICTURE FRAMING SMALL LOCAL WORKSHOP

Work carried out for local gallery

Complete framing service

Canvases stretched

Mounts cut for existing frames

Old photographs restored

Local collection/delivery

Contact Colin Ward 0118 972 2075

ALL MAKES SERVICING

Caring for all your motoring needs for over 50 years!



- ✓ BOSCH Diagnostics
- ✓ Service & Repair
- ✓ Air Conditioning Service & Re-Gas
- ✓ ATA Highly Qualified Technicians
- ✓ Free Collection & Delivery
- ✓ Courtesy Cars Available

Sonning Common Vauxhall

0118 972 2021

Peppard Road, Sonning Common, Reading RG4 9SU

CUSTOMER EXCELLENCE WINNER

Service Open: Mon-Fri 8am - 6pm • Sat 8.30am - 12.30pm • Sun CLOSED

www.sonningcommonvauxhall.com



£10.00 OFF

your next MOT on production of this voucher



DK FLOORING

Flooring Specialist

NO JOB TOO SMALL OR TO BIG

Carpet, Vinyl, Wood & Laminate Flooring

For a FREE Competitive Quote and samples direct to your door

Call Daniel: 07500709716 Email: dkcarpets@hotmail.co.uk

Sonning Common Pet Care

At Home Pet Care
when you are on holiday or at work

Cats

Daily visits to clean, feed and pamper

Small Pets

Home visits to care for your Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Hamsters, etc

Dog Walking

Regular or occasional walks

Puppy Visits

To feed, play, toilet break and clean up

Please call Alison for further information

Tel 0118 9722948 / 07787 114536



Volunteers required

The Sonning Common Magazine relies on a dedicated group of distributors, each responsible for delivering to about 30 houses in the village. Due to changes in circumstances new volunteers are always required. If you would like to be part of the team and are able to give approximately one hour every 2 months, we would love to hear from you.

HELEN GAVIN

Distribution Manager for the Sonning Common Magazine

Tel 9724680 or email distribution@sonningcommonmagazine.org



TEXTUREPLUS

Mr (Husband & Wife Team)

MEB'S Decorplus

Mrs

- Interior and Exterior Decorating
- Floor and Wall Tiling
- Wallpaper Hanging

•Carpentry- Architraves + Doors + Skirting

Complete Home Improvements

- NHBC Awarded
- Insurance Work Undertaken

(Quality Comes As Standard)

- Plastering
- Artexing
- Coving

- PPL Insured
- 30+ Year in Business

(T)07880 542363

Sonning Common
Tel: 0118 9721442

(M)07920 092875



Sonning Common Magazine celebrates 40 years of publication

Around 60 of the volunteers who produce and distribute the Sonning Common Magazine met in January for a reception to celebrate 40 years of publication. This was an opportunity for the committee to say thank you to all the volunteers (there are nearly 100 of them) for their help. It was also an opportunity for people to meet one another and there was plenty of chat.

Joyce Hargreaves was one of the people involved in the very early years and has only just retired as a deliverer. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a certificate to mark her enormous contribution to the magazine.

The advertisers are the people and organisations that make the magazine possible. Peppard Building Supplies is the only firm to have advertised in every issue and to mark this valuable support John Butler, founder of the present business, was presented with a bottle of whisky and a certificate. He commented that the magazine helped local businesses prosper and confidently expected his firm and the magazine to be here in another 40 years.

Geoff Adams, Chairman of the magazine committee, thanked all who helped make the magazine the success it is. He invited people to volunteer to help, either on the committee providing copy or with delivering magazines. More people are needed to ensure that the magazine develops to meet the needs of the community. The commitment is only around 10 hours a year. Geoff can be contacted on 0118 9722134 or chairman@sonningcommonmagazine.org

A declaration of independence?

As a resident of Sonning Common since 1970, I return to our village through the mile of open fields from Reading and beyond with a feeling of relief and uplift. All the problems at national and world levels seem to fade to some degree into the background as the community atmosphere takes over.

Perhaps we should consider following the example of Pimlico in the 1949 film 'Passport to Pimlico' and declare independence. ■

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS KEDGE



Sonning Common Magazine AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Sonning Common Magazine will be held on 9 May 2014 commencing at 7.15pm. in the Village Hall, Sonning Common. All who live within the delivery area are welcome.

Light refreshments will be served from 7.15pm followed by a short talk from Professor Michael Twyman. Mike, a long term resident in the village, has just completed what is already regarded as the definitive work on the history of colour printing. He has lectured and mounted exhibitions around the world and makes the topic absolutely fascinating. This is an opportunity to hear a genuinely world class specialist and an occasion that all will enjoy and remember. Don't miss it.

The AGM will follow Mike Twyman's talk

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of AGM held 10 May 2013
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Editor's report
7. Distribution manager's report
8. Advertising manager's report
9. Election of officers and committee
10. Date of next meeting
11. Any other business

This is your chance to say what you think of the magazine and what you would like included in the future. ■





Do you require PA/Admin services
without employment commitments?
Experienced Virtual Assistant based in Sonning
Common. Available to help support local
businesses. Cost effective and flexible. Call Sue!

07870566824 / sue@virtualcatt.co.uk

PILATES ABC, HENLEY.

CLASSES: SONNING COMMON, HENLEY
& HURLEY. **BEGINNERS WELCOME**

07521 699265 alyth@pilatesabc.co.uk

www.pilatesabc.co.uk



Whatever your electrical needs are, HHP Electrical can
help...

With electrical services ranging from:

- Lighting / Power upgrades
 - Full / Part Rewires
 - Fault finding and repairs
 - Full Electrical Safety/ Landlords Inspections
- All to suit the exact requirements of our clients.

0118 9724108 - www.hhpelectrical.co.uk

info@hhpelectrical.co.uk

SPICK 'n' SPAN DOMESTIC CLEANING SERVICE

- Reliable, friendly & trustworthy.
- Weekly / Fortnightly cleans
- One-Off Cleans
- All equipment and supplies provided.

Competitive Rates

Please call Louise for a free quotation.

Tel: 07914 295 167 / 0118 941 8172

Happy Hounds Dog Grooming Parlour

Caring & Professional Groomer
Clipping, Bathing, Handstripping,
Nails & much more

Mobile and pick-up service available

Call Karen on 07799 114061

What's your property worth?

We have buyers and tenants eagerly seeking property
to **buy** or **rent**, so invite us around for your
FREE market appraisal.

Contact us at **Davis Tate** today
on **0118 972 4242** or email sonning@davistate.com

If you have instructed another agent on a sole agency and/or sole selling rights basis, the terms of those instructions must be considered to avoid a possible liability to pay two commissions. However asking us to visit is FREE.



Julie Norman **MANAGER**



Jo Bailey **SALES AND LETTINGS NEGOTIATOR**



ALL PROPERTY MATTERS

Join the club...

By **JANICE DANDRIDGE**

Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society is a friendly and local
gardening club, serving members in and around Sonning
Common. Formed back in 1959, CEHS currently has a
membership of around 200 and offers great value for money
together with the companionship of like-minded people.
Recently the society undertook the opportunity to donate and
plant up window boxes for the Peppard Memorial Hall which
are now in full bloom, do have a look if you are passing.

We have newsletters and talks on gardening and related issues;
the next talk is on Fuchsias being held on the **15 April 7.30 at
Peppard Memorial Hall.**

There are two shows a year, one in the spring and one in the
autumn. The next show is being held on the **5 April 2.30 to
4.30 at Chiltern Edge School.** All are welcome – come to view
vegetables, flowers, cookery, handicrafts, photography plus
children's class entries (competition on the day) tombola and
plant stall. Refreshments - homemade cakes, tea and coffee

The society has three coach outings arranged for 2014 - Exbury
Gardens, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and RHS Garden Wisley

17 May 9.30 to 12.00 in the local Village Hall – Table top sale
Look out for posters

So if you want to be part of the local gardening community and
meet some like-minded people who are able to offer advice
and guidance on gardening, come along to a talk, an event or
visit us at www.cehs.info/ or contact our Chairman Mark Richards
on 0118 9723939.



**CHILTERN EDGE
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**



Peppard Bowls Club is 85 years old

Originally a club for gentlemen, we now include ladies, some of
whom are excellent players. We encourage players at all levels.
We are looking forward to warmer weather, and the new season,
when we can enjoy playing lawn bowls.

Why not join us in 2014?

Try our Bowls Taster Days on 19 or 27 April at 2pm.

Refreshments, together with help from experienced players will be
available. All you'll need is flat soled shoes and perhaps a sense of
humour, we'll take care of the rest. In addition to taking part in this
surprisingly interesting sport you will have an opportunity to meet lots
of new people from a wide range of backgrounds. Several social
events have been planned and we are sure you would enjoy our
company. We have some interesting friendly fixtures, League and
County matches are arranged.

Just imagine you could abandon the household chores and
gardening and join us for two hours on our regular Monday and
Thursday Club Afternoons. You would, I am sure, enjoy the peaceful
tranquil surroundings, light exercise, fresh air and a gentle game of
bowls. Afterwards visit our Bar - in the "Clayton
Room" - and enjoy a beer, soft drink or even
a "cuppa", with fellow members.

You'll find us at the rear of Peppard
Memorial Hall with lots of free
parking available.

Jenny, our Membership Secretary,
would love to hear from you
and she can be contacted on
0118 924 2617.



South Oxfordshire Probus Club

The club was formed in May 2012 and
now has 39 member. We are retired or
semi retired professional people who
have held senior positions in industry,
commerce or the public sector.

The club meets monthly at the White Hart
Hotel in Dorchester on Thames where
over drinks and lunch members hear talks
on a wide range of interesting subjects
included the railways of Oxfordshire,

the Bermuda Triangle, the history of
Wallingford, British Waterways, the
production of morphine plus a discussion
with our MP on issues in Parliament.

Partners have been invited to a range
of social events including a tour of the
Palace of Westminster, a lunch and
performance at the Watermill Theatre,
a Thames river trip, a tour and tasting at
a local vineyard and a tour of the Mini

Factory at Cowley
and the Morgan
Factory at Malvern.

Anyone interested in
becoming a member the club
should contact the Club Secretary
John Edwards:

email cs.soxprobus@gmail.com or
Tel 01865 343062



Betty Brindley

A FRIEND TO ALL

Betty Brindley, known to many as a brave, kind and gentle lady, died on 1 February 2014 at the Sue Ryder Hospice, Nettlebed. Her health had declined in recent years.

Edinburgh-born Betty, 90, lived in Woodlands Road with her husband Ron, 92, for the past 14 years. Prior to that, they lived in Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End, after moving to the area from south London in 1960.

Betty worked as a receptionist at Sonning Common Health Centre for many years where her warmth, humour and generous nature ensured she was a popular figure. She regularly attended Sonning Common Luncheon Club and was a keen supporter of Thames Valley Animal Welfare.

A well-attended celebration of Betty's life took place at St John the Baptist Church in Kidmore End on 14 February. In paying tribute to her, the Revd. Canon Graham Foulis Brown described her as one of the most active members of the congregation, even at the age of 90!

Her role as the church's sacristan saw her faithfully preparing the Communion table week in, week out, year in, year out, for 42 years, until shortly before she died.

Revd. Foulis Brown said: "Not one of us who knew Betty will ever forget her. Her stoicism, resilience and determination saw her through several illnesses that would have overwhelmed anyone else."

Betty's good friend Moira Lawrie gave the eulogy at her service. Said Moira: "Some people make such a difference to our lives by simply being who they are. We should not mourn that Betty died but praise God that she lived."

Betty was extremely proud of her Scottish heritage and loved nothing more than visiting Scotland. She was a true and loyal friend to many people from different generations and kept a special book so that she would never forget anyone's birthday or anniversary.

She will be sadly missed by her dear husband Ron, whom she met at a Butlins holiday camp in Ayr in 1950. The couple married in 1952 and celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in 2012.

ROS VARNES



ABOVE: Betty and Ron Brindley celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary with a card from the Queen.

Thank you ...

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been so kind after the loss of my dear wife Betty.

During her illness the staff at Sonning Common Health Centre and the Sue Ryder Hospice, Nettlebed, could not have been kinder and more helpful to Betty and me.

Judging by the many cards I have received - close to 100 - Betty was well-liked in the

community. Many people say that Betty always had time for a chat with everyone she met.

The generous donations to Betty's chosen charities were overwhelming and will be shared between the Sue Ryder Hospice at Nettlebed and Thames Valley Animal Welfare.

RON BRINDLEY



EASTER SERVICES at ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, Peppard Road, Sonning Common

Palm Sunday 13 April: Blessing of Palms at 9.00 and 10.30 am Masses (and 5.30 pm Saturday)

Monday 14 April: 7 pm Service of Reconciliation

Maudy Thursday 17 April: 7 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday 18 April: 10 am Walk of Witness (through Sonning Common, gather at Christ the King Sedgewell Road); back at St Michael's: Stations of the Cross: 12 Noon, Good Friday Liturgy 3 pm

Holy Saturday Vigil 19 April: 9 pm (no 5.30 pm Mass)

Easter Sunday 20 April: Mass at 9.00 and 10.30 am

All Saints' Church, Rotherfield Peppard Services on Good Friday and Easter Day

Good Friday 18 April

10 am - Morning Prayer and Litany

2 pm - Devotional Hour of Music and Readings

Easter Day 20 April

9 am - Holy Communion

10.30 am - Sung Eucharist

6.30 pm - Festal Evensong

Welcome to the new vicar at All Saints

At the time of writing, we look forward to welcoming The Revd Susan Cooper, arriving, with her husband, from New Zealand. She is due to be licensed by the Bishop of Dorchester at a benefice service, to be held at St John's, on 16 March.

18 April is Good Friday, the day of the Crucifixion. All are welcome, young or old, to join the **Procession of Witness**, which starts from **Christ the King car park, at 10am**. Hot cross buns and coffee, afterwards!

Please note that, this year, in the afternoon, our **Good Friday Service of Meditation, with Music**, will be at **All Saints' Church, Peppard**, at **2pm** - for an hour.

Easter is the Feast of the Resurrection of Christ, the oldest and greatest feast of the Christian church - and the day when all Christians attend church.

20 April Easter Day

9.30am Eucharist at Christ the King

11.00am Sung Eucharist at St John's

Everybody welcome; we expect full churches. Our clergy and church members wish all readers a Happy Easter.

Thursday 29 May Ascension Day, the fortieth day after Easter, is the day we remember the ascent of Christ into heaven.

We will celebrate it with Holy Communion at **All Saint's Church, Peppard**, at **8.00pm**.

200th anniversary of Stoke Row chapel

In 2015, we shall be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the building of Stoke Row Chapel. Construction began one month after the Battle of Waterloo. We should like to mount a small historical exhibition, but, unfortunately, nearly all the Chapel archives were destroyed by fire in the 1970s. We wondered whether any of your readers might have any pre-1980 photographs or documents relating to the Chapel that we could copy and use. We realise that this request is a very long shot, but who knows what might be resting in someone's attic or undisturbed drawer? We can be contacted on 01491 680793 or at stokerowchapel@btinternet.com

DAVID AND SONIA JACKSON
(Joint Ministers, Stoke Row Chapel)



April 2014

| | | |
|-------------|---|------------------|
| TUESDAY 1 | Whist Drive. Tea & biscuits available - Batten House, Lea Road | 2pm |
| WEDNESDAY 2 | Village Coffee Morning hosted by Sonning Common Women's Institute. Open to all. Raising funds for local community projects - Village Hall | 10.30am - 12noon |
| THURSDAY 3 | Sonning Common Society - Illustrated talk on Red Kites by David Glover. Refreshments available. All welcome - Library | 7.30am - 8.30pm |
| FRIDAY 4 | Nottakwire practice - Village Hall | 9.45am - 11.30am |
| TUESDAY 8 | Whist Drive. Tea & biscuits available - Batten House, Lea Road | 2pm |
| THURSDAY 10 | Chiltern Players "Marking Time" a comedy by Michael Snelgrove - Peppard Memorial Hall | 8pm |
| FRIDAY 11 | Chiltern Players "Marking Time" a comedy by Michael Snelgrove - Peppard Memorial Hall | 8pm |
| FRIDAY 11 | Notts group - Village Hall | 9.30am - 12noon |
| SATURDAY 12 | Chiltern Players "Marking Time" a comedy by Michael Snelgrove - Peppard Memorial Hall | 8pm |
| MONDAY 14 | Royal British Legion Women's Section - Bring a flower to be judged - Batten House, Lea Road | 2pm - 3.30pm |
| MONDAY 14 | Sonning Common Parish Council - Village Hall | 8pm |
| TUESDAY 15 | Whist Drive. Tea & biscuits available - Batten House, Lea Road | 2pm |
| THURSDAY 17 | FISH - Pub lunch - 11.30am | |
| THURSDAY 17 | Sonning Common Women's Institute - "Donkey Sanctuary" talk by Judy Gibbons. Visitors welcome - Village Hall | 7.30pm |
| SATURDAY 19 | Peppard Bowls Club - Taster Day - Peppard Memorial Hall | |
| TUESDAY 22 | Whist Drive. Tea & biscuits available - Batten House, Lea Road | 2pm |
| THURSDAY 24 | FISH - Henley Farmers' Market | |
| FRIDAY 25 | Notts group - Village Hall | 9.30am - 12noon |
| SUNDAY 27 | Peppard Bowls Club - Taster Day - Peppard Memorial Hall | |
| TUESDAY 29 | Whist Drive. Tea & biscuits available - Batten House, Lea Road | 2pm |

May 2014

| | | |
|-------------|---|------------------|
| FRIDAY 2 | Nottakwire practice - Village Hall | 9.45am - 11.30am |
| TUESDAY 6 | Whist Drive. Tea & biscuits available - Batten House, Lea Road | 2pm |
| WEDNESDAY 7 | Village Coffee Morning hosted by Sonning Common Women's Institute. Open to all. Raising funds for local community projects - Village Hall | 10.30am - 12noon |
| FRIDAY 9 | Notts group - Village Hall | 9.30am - 12noon |
| MONDAY 14 | Royal British Legion Women's Section - Talk on Africa by Nigel Gloverwright - Batten House, Lea Road | 2pm - 3.30pm |
| MONDAY 12 | Sonning Common Parish Council - Annual Meeting - Village Hall | |
| TUESDAY 13 | Whist Drive. Tea & biscuits available - Batten House, Lea Road | 2pm |
| THURSDAY 15 | FISH - Pub lunch | 11.30am |
| THURSDAY 15 | Sonning Common Women's Institute - Resolutions followed by Beetle Drive. Visitors welcome - Village Hall | 7.30pm |
| FRIDAY 16 | Nottakwire practice - Village Hall | 9.45am - 11.30am |
| MONDAY 19 | Sonning Common Parish Council - Village Hall | 8pm |
| TUESDAY 20 | Whist Drive. Tea & biscuits available - Batten House, Lea Road | 2pm |
| THURSDAY 22 | FISH - Henley Farmers' Market | |
| FRIDAY 23 | Notts group - Village Hall | 9.30am - 12noon |
| TUESDAY 27 | Whist Drive. Tea & biscuits available - Batten House, Lea Road | 2pm |
| FRIDAY 30 | Nottakwire practice - Village Hall | 9.45am - 11.30am |

FISH runs regular shopping trips to Tesco in Henley on Monday mornings and to Henley and Reading town centres. For more information and to book call 0118 972 3986. ■

BRAND NEW LADIES, CHILDREN & TEENAGE CLOTHING SALE

SATURDAY 5TH APRIL
10.00AM-12NOON
SONNING COMMON VILLAGE HALL

- Quality High St Brands at prices a fraction of the cost in the shops.
- Clothes available to try & buy on the day
- Free Entry



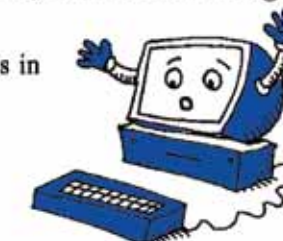
www.dragonfly-clothing.co.uk

Computer Problems?

Free quote, no fix no fee, no call out charge

Over 200 happy customers in Sonning Common.

Milo and Michael Harper



Milo Technical Support
22 Sedgewell Road

0118 972 4905

HENLEY GLAZING AND WINDOW CENTRE LIMITED
Incorporating

PEMBROKE GLASS
01491 629901
Glass Supply, Glazing Service,
Mirrors, Shelves, Tabletops,
Sealed Units, Lead Lights,
Locks, Secondary Glazing,
Shower Screens

FENSA
Registered Company

VILLAGE WINDOWS & CONSERVATORIES
0118 9419210
Suppliers and installers of:
UPVC, Aluminium and
Timber Windows
Doors and Conservatories
Fascias, Soffits and Guttering

Workshop: Unit 12, Manor Farm, Peppard Common, Henley-on-Thames RG9 5LA
Fax: 01491 629904 Email: henleyglazingwindow@yahoo.co.uk

TANDOORI

Connoisseur

*Come & Experience authentic
Tandoori & Bengali Cuisine*

- ★ Fully Air-Conditioned
- ★ Large Groups Catered For
- ★ Open 7 Days a Week

21 Wood Lane
Sonning Common
0118 972 3104 / 972 1054

TAKE-AWAY MENU
We Guarantee Prompt Service on All Orders

S J HINTON

Carpenter & Joiner

Wide range of high-quality carpentry services delivered by skilled craftsman
Built-In Wardrobes, Cupboards, Shelving.
Kitchen Fitting, Doors, Floors, Windows,
Stairs, Roof Construction.

**Telephone Steve on 0118 972 3602
or 07887 653866**

Sonning Common Beauty

12 Newfield Road Telephone 0118 972 3059
www.sonningcommonbeauty.co.uk

- MANICURE • PEDICURE • ORGANIC FACIALS
- MD FORMULATIONS GLYCOLIC PEELS
- WAXING • LASH AND BROW TREATMENTS
- SPRAY TANNING • MAKE-UP • MASSAGE
- BRIDAL HOLIDAY AND MUM-TO-BE PACKAGES AVAILABLE

Gift Vouchers Available
Some reduced price treatments available each week please ring to check availability



Sonning Common Health Centre
Wood Lane, Sonning Common,
Reading, RG4 9SW

- Back & Neck pain
- Muscle / Joint Strains
- Ligament Sprain
- Sports Injuries
- Whiplash Injuries
- Shoulder Injuries
- Post-Operative Rehabilitation
- Pre / Post Natal Exercise
- Respiratory Conditions
- Lower Limb & Foot Problems

- Appointments available every day
- Pilates classes throughout the week

Jo Pereira MCSP
Catherine Matthews MCSP
Chartered Physiotherapists

T: 01189 722 745

E: info@functionalphysio.co.uk

www.functionalphysio.co.uk

The team at Functional Physio are Chartered Physiotherapists registered with the Health Professions Council and are recognised by all major insurance companies, including Bupa and Axa PPP.



noble intentions
landscape garden design

Professional
advice, design &
planting for your
garden.

Call Gail Noble
on 0118 972 3214
www.noble-intentions.com



High quality education and child care under the
Early years foundation stage (EYFS) for children
4 months to 5 years

- Good OFSTED report
- Pre-school sessions available
- Open all year, Monday to Friday, 7am to 7pm
- Flexible hours
- Early years education grants available
- Curriculum includes French, Music & Movement and Thames Valley Gym
- Small friendly and personal care in Sonning Common

For further information, please ask for the manager
on 0118 972 4783, or visit our website.

www.alphabetdaynurseries.com

emails: info@alphabetdaynurseries.com

Vintage High
Teas/Cream
Teas

Friendly Staff

Homemade
cakes

Homemade
Daily Specials

Evening
Events

The Bay Trees

Easter at The Bay Trees

Come and celebrate Easter with us on Thursday 17th April for our
Roasted Lamb Lunch!

Includes a home made dessert for only £8.95

Winnie's Lunch Club

Every Thursday we serve a twist on the Traditional Roast Dinner

Freshly Prepared by Our Chef
For only £7.50

Open Mon-Fri 9-5: Breakfast and Lunch Served All Day
See our full menu on our website along with other upcoming events

0118 327 1128 www.thebaytrees.co.uk

25 Wood Lane • Sonning Common • Oxfordshire • RG4 9SJ



Fed Up With Call Centres Barrs Insurance

Mark & Helen Richards
Your Local Insurance Brokers
For The Unusual & The Usual
Let Us Take Care Of Your Insurance

- House & Contents • Business • Liabilities
- Travel • Landlords • Professional Indemnity
- Horse • Shops • Sickness / Accident
- Commercial / Unusual Vehicle

If It's Not listed We Still Can Help
All Types Of Insurance Enquiries Welcome

0118 924 2603

mail: info@barrs-insurances.co.uk
www.barrs-insurance.co.uk

Unit 2, Kidby's Yard, Kennylands Road, Sonning Common RG4 9JT

Ridiculously Easy Accounting, Guaranteed!

Specialising in helping Start-Ups and Small Businesses, we offer a full range of accounting and tax services by email and post. Need accounts and tax to satisfy HMRC? Want to outsource all your accounting to free up time? We make your life simpler, with performance guarantees ensuring excellent service or your money back.

Request a free quote online now at
www.blueredaccountants.co.uk

